



Press-Gazette photo by Joan Gutheridge

Growing village: Kevin Anderson, Howard administrator, stands outside the Howard Mall, one of

several new businesses in the village. The mall at Velp and Glendale avenues opened in spring, 1990.

Howard keeping its identity

Growth hasn't hurt community feeling

By Lisa Sumter

Press-Gazette

HOWARD — A major segment of the population here works in Green Bay.

Residents go to the city to see a movie, buy a new winter wardrobe and see a nationally known entertainer perform.

But residents and village officials insist that despite its link to Green Bay, Howard maintains its identity.

"Obviously we're related to the Green Bay area but we do have our own identity, our own activities," Administrator Kevin Anderson says. "People identify Howard as their home community."

This village of 10,100 is on the grow. Anderson says an influx of residential development in recent years probably will continue for several years.

What attracts people?

"There is a lot of available space, so it gives people a little more of a rural setting," Anderson says. "Just being one small step out of the city seems to have a real appeal for people, too."

Anderson and other residents point to a strong Howard-Suamico School District as another plus.

Pat Destache, 2547 Tulip Lane, moved to Howard with her husband Roger 31 years ago. They raised seven children here and have fond memories.

"No one on our street had less than four children," she says. "They used to call this 'Diaper Lane.'"

The Destaches moved to Howard to escape the crowded atmosphere of Green Bay.

"It was heavenly. I could let my kids roam all over and they would be just fine," she says. "They could play in the creek, in the woods, all over."

The neighborhood has gone full circle, with a whole new batch of young families moving into the area, she says.

Gary Kimp was born in Howard and

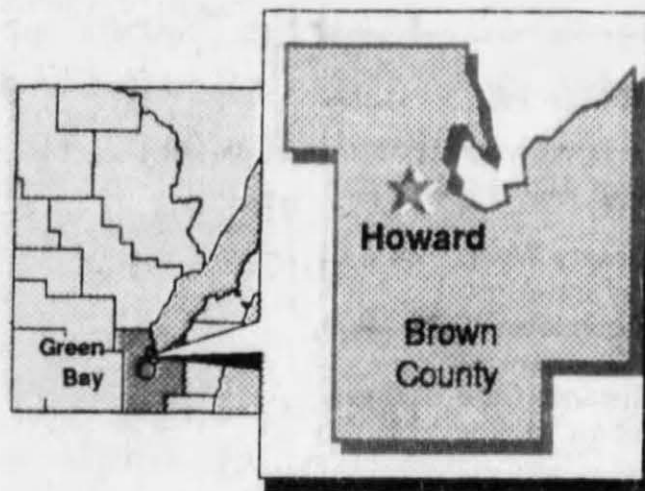
The Howard file

- **Population:** 10,100
- **Historical Howard:** The community once was known as Duck Creek, local residents say. It incorporated as the village of Howard in 1967.

The community sprang up in the 1800s on land opened up for settlement by the departure of the Fort Howard garrison, according to Jack Rudolph's *Pictorial History of Green Bay*.

- **On the grow:** Population in Howard increased from 8,240 in 1980 to the current estimate of more than 10,000. Since 1988, 154 new homes have been built in the village, along with 23 multifamily units.

Permits also were issued for 25 commercial buildings since 1989, officials said.



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— Kevin Anderson, village administrator

raised his three children here. The family business he runs, Kimp's Hardware, 2548 Glendale Ave., is in its 50th year.

Kimp supports the village's growth. He says expansion has helped eliminate negatives of "small town" life but hasn't destroyed the community feeling.

"At one time, 20 years ago when it was just the local people here, there was more of a cliquey feeling," he says. "Now with outsiders coming in there's more of a mix and it's a better community. We make friends with people from other places."

Craig Kimp is the only one of the Kimp children who remains in Howard. An avid hunter and fisherman, he appreciates the area's natural resources. "You're an hour away from the woods and you've got the water nearby."

Duck Creek runs through the village and is a popular spot for perch fishermen in winter. Howard also is known for its

quarries.

Six village parks and two county parks are in Howard. Anderson says the village is expanding the parks system, including the recent purchase of 12½ acres to add to Meadowbrook Park.

The aim is to combine typical recreation such as sledding hills and baseball diamonds with the natural lowlands and brooks.

Howard attracts business and industry, too. A 450-acre industrial park, established in 1978, is home to a variety of small firms, many of which expanded since moving here, Anderson says.

Growth is prompting change and presents the village with many challenges, Anderson says. Officials are looking ahead, designing multi-year plans for water, sewer and street improvements.

■ **Next week:** Shirley in Brown County